

## PERISCOPE.

BY DRs. G. W. JACOBY, N. E. BRILL, AND LOUISE FISKE-BRYSON.

### ANATOMY OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

THE BRAIN WEIGHT IN THE INSANE. Dr. Bartels, of Hildesheim (*Allgemeine Zeitschrift für Psychiatric, etc.*).

The author, after giving the literature on the subject, tabulates the findings of the brain weights of males and females in ten different psychoses. Accepting the average normal weight of a healthy brain to be 1,460 g. in males and 1,320 g. in females (Henle and Krause), the following deviations in the various psychoses present themselves :

	Males.	Females.	Average Weight in Grammes.
1. Mania.....	27		1423
		32	1288
2. Melancholia.....	74		1437
		95	1284
3. Periodical Insanity.....	23		1446
		15	1255
4. Paranoia.....	115		1416
		62	1263
5. General Paresis.....	276		1353
		44	1185
6. Acute Delirium.....	5		1385
		2	1325
7. Epileptic Insanity.....	70		1421
		32	1231
8. Idiocy and Imbecility.....	27		1335
		18	1194
9. Secondary Dementia.....	181		1408
		124	1263
10. Senile Dementia.....	12		1359
		6	1200

Too much weight ought not to be placed on these deviations ; for, as the author well says, in certain groups the number of cases is not sufficient to deduce a safe estimate. In paranoia and secondary dementia, which affect the indi-

vidual in a large proportion of cases late in life, in which the brain itself would naturally begin to diminish in weight and in which the disease itself may have been of long standing, no reliable estimate could be attained. He concludes as follows :

1. All psychoses necessarily diminish the weight of the brain.

2. This diminution depends (*a*) on the age of the patient, (*b*) on the duration of the disease, (*c*) on the intensity of the disease.

*a.*—The diminution in weight is smallest in both sexes between twenty and thirty years of age, largest in males of seventy years of age, and in women of sixty years of age.

*b.*—The shorter the average duration of the disease the smaller in general is the loss in brain weight and *vice versa*.

*c.*—The deeper the disease affects the mental life of the individual, and in the one who shows the smallest ability for mental work, the greater is the loss of brain weight, and *vice versa*.

3. The diminution in females is larger than that in males by from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 1.6 per cent.

N. E. B.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE MORPHOLOGY AND MORPHOGENESIS OF THE CRUS CEREBRI, by G. Jelgersura (*Centralblatt für Nervenheilkunde, etc., September 15th and October 15th.*)

This embraces a short resume of the author's investigations of the brains of five idiots, in which the cortex was very much atrophied as the result of various pathological processes. Only one of the hemispheres of two of these cases showed atrophic changes, the other hemisphere in each being almost entirely normal. There were almost equal changes in both hemispheres in each of the other cases, and almost the entire cerebral cortex was destroyed by encephalitis or by meningitis. The latter cases were extreme idiots, the former two only half idiots with the somatic signs